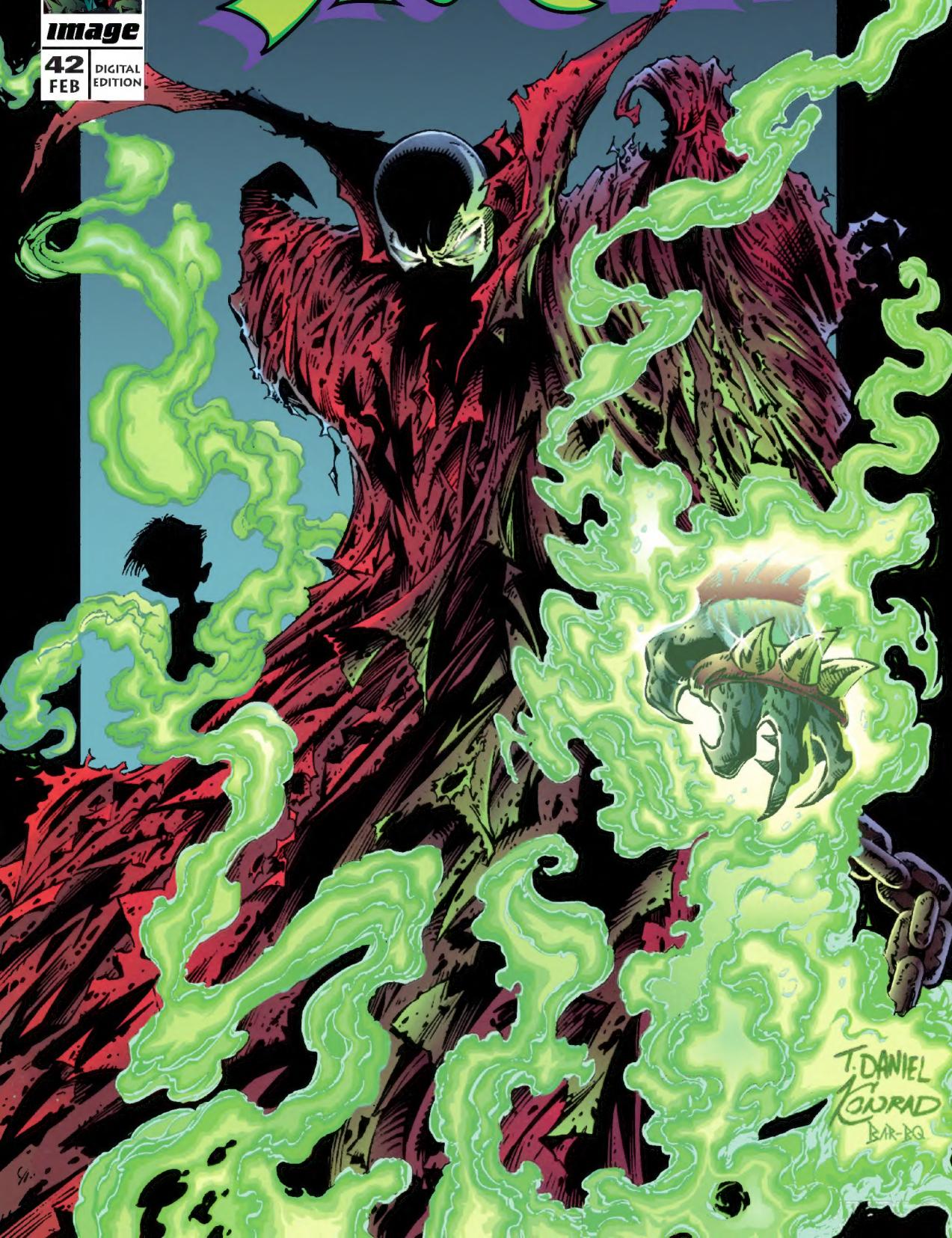




Image

42 FEB DIGITAL EDITION

SPAWN®



T. DANIEL
CONRAD
BAR-B-Q

image COMICS PRESENTS:

FANBOY



Spawn #41 Summary:

Curse continues his sadistic torture of Spawn. With the physical part complete, he begins to mentally dissect him, searching for the knowledge that will enable him to overpower the master of all evil. Spawn's uniform eventually wins the fight to come to life and reassembles him. As Spawn is engulfed by its force, the maniacal Curse lunges for a switch, self-destructing the castle and everything in it. Elsewhere, Cy-Gor continues his journey towards New York for an as yet undetermined reason.

**FOR IMAGE COMICS
LARRY MARDER - exec. director**

SPAWN #42. Digital Edition. Published by IMAGE COMICS P.O. Box 25468 Anaheim, CA 92825. Spawn®, its logo and its symbol are Registered Trademarks 1996 of Todd McFarlane Productions, Inc. All other related characters are Trademark™ and Copyright© 1996 Todd McFarlane Productions, Inc. All Rights reserved. Any similarities to persons living or dead is purely coincidental. With the exception of artwork used for review purposes, none of the contents of this publication may be reprinted without the permission of Todd McFarlane.

Director Of Creative Development: TERRY FITZGERALD.
Graphics Coordinator: JULIA SIMMONS.

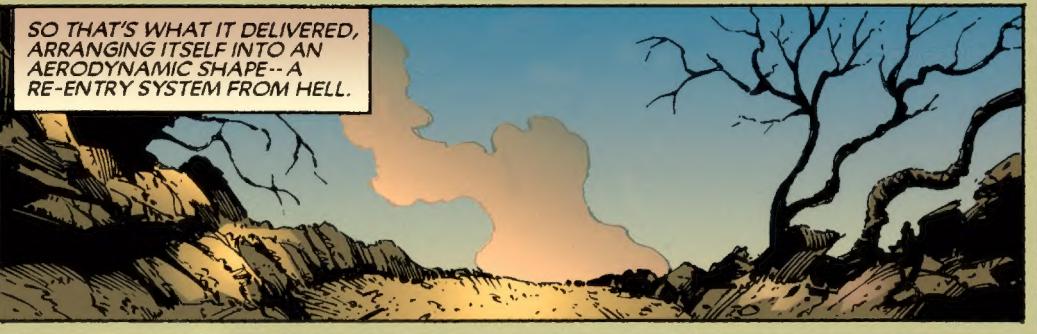
story
TODD McFARLANE
pencils
TONY DANIEL
inks
KEVIN CONRAD
copy editor & letters
TOM ORZECHOWSKI

color
STEVE OLIFF
QUINN SUPPLEE
and **OLYOPTICS**





SO THAT'S WHAT IT DELIVERED,
ARRANGING ITSELF INTO AN
AERODYNAMIC SHAPE--A
RE-ENTRY SYSTEM FROM HELL.



THE PARTING SHOT HIT WITH THE FORCE OF AN IMPACTING COMET, BLASTING THE LIVING UNIFORM AND ITS PASSENGER AWAY. WITHIN SECONDS, THEY'RE BLOWN FROM THE CURSE'S RURAL WEST VIRGINIA CASTLE TO A BED OF WINTER-DEADENED GROWTH TWO MILES AWAY. THE COSTUME'S HELL-BORN INSTINCTS FOR SELF-PRESERVATION HAD SERVED ITS DOMINANT FUNCTION:

...THE CONTINUED PROTECTION OF THE FORM INSIDE. ITS HOST.

AL SIMMONS.
SPAWN.



LIKE A SCARECROW NOW, WITHOUT THE PHYSICAL STRUCTURE TO BEAR ITS OWN WEIGHT, SPAWN RISES...

NOT BY HIS OWN DESIRE, BUT BECAUSE HIS COSTUME COMPELS HIM TO DO SO.

CONNECTICUT.

...SO, UNLESS SOME OF THE REPORTS IN THIS FILE ARE FABRICATIONS, WE'VE GOT QUITE IMPLICIT CONNECTIONS BETWEEN CHIEF BANKS AND THE MURDER OF THE JENNINGS CHILD.

UNFORTUNATELY, SIR, IT APPEARS THAT HE WAS.

THERE WAS ALWAYS SOMETHING FISHY ABOUT THE WHOLE BILLY KINCAID TIMELINE. KINCAID WAS BEING DETAINED REGARDING ANOTHER CHILD'S DISAPPEARANCE. THE INVESTIGATOR IN CHARGE WAS ABRUPTLY 'TRANSFERRED' BY BANKS TO ANOTHER CASE, FOR NO STATED REASON... AND KINCAID WAS THEN RELEASED ON HIS OWN RECOGNISANCE.

CRISES! I DIDN'T THINK BANKS WAS THAT COMPETENT.

HE SOON HEADED IN A CONSPICUOUS PATH TOWARD SENATOR JENNINGS' DAUGHTER.

KINCAID STOOD OUT LIKE A SORE THUMB IN THAT NEIGHBORHOOD. THE CLERK AT THE 7-11 IDENTIFIED HIM WITHOUT HESITATION. IT'S AS IF SOMEONE POINTED HIM IN THE SENATOR'S DIRECTION--

--WITH THE CLEAR INTENTION OF SENDING JENNINGS A MESSAGE BY KIDNAPPING HIS DAUGHTER.

"AND THEN SLAUGHTERING HER."

"YES, SIR."

"BILLY'S DEAD LONG SINCE, SO HE AIN'T GIVING US ANY ANSWERS."

"NO, SIR. BUT IF WE CAN FOLLOW UP A FEW MORE LEADS, IT LOOKS AS THOUGH THE EVIDENCE WILL CONCLUSIVELY LINK CHIEF BANKS TO THE MURDER OF THE SENATOR'S DAUGHTER."

...STILL, I'M A BIT CONFUSED AS TO WHY BILLY WAS LEFT ALIVE AFTER THE JENNINGS MURDER. ELIMINATING HIM THEN... PERHAPS SCAPEGOATING AN "OVER-ZEALOUS ROOKIE COP" FOR GOOD MEASURE... WOULD SURELY HAVE CLOSED THE CASE AND BURIED ANY HINT OF CONSPIRACY. UNLESS HE WAS BEING HELD AS AN 'ACE' IF THE HEAT GOT TURNED UP...

SO YOU DON'T THINK SPAWN IS A PART OF THIS.
SLURP!

IT DOESN'T APPEAR SO, BUT IT DOES BEG THE QUESTION OF HOW HE ACQUIRED THE 'SECRET' FILE ON BANKS THAT HE GAVE US.*

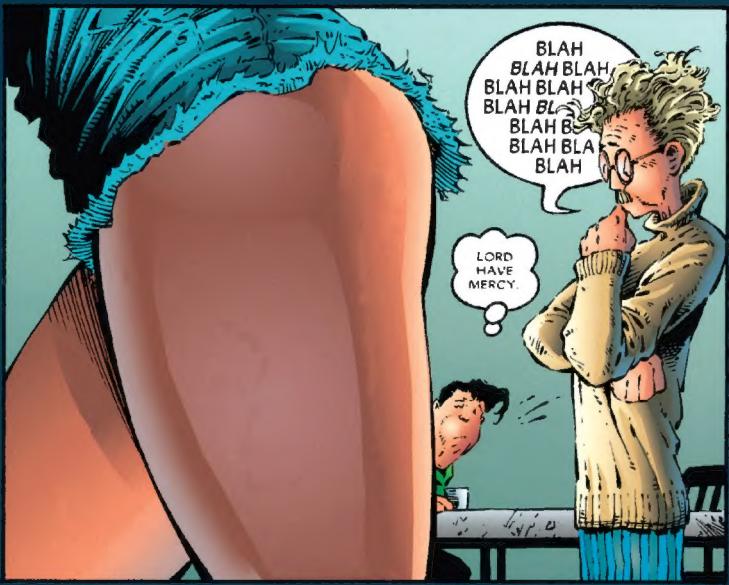
WE'LL FIGURE THAT OUT LATER. RIGHT NOW WE'VE GOT BANKS NAILED TO THE WALL. I DON'T WANT HIM WRIGGLING LOOSE.

HE WON'T. MEANWHILE, WHO WAS HE WORKING FOR? SOMEONE AT THE C.I.A. WHO NEEDED THE ODD DOMESTIC JOB DONE? THAT'S LIKELY, GIVEN BANKS' TELEPHONE RECORDS. IT'LL PROBABLY TAKE ANOTHER YEAR TO TRACK ALL THAT DOWN.

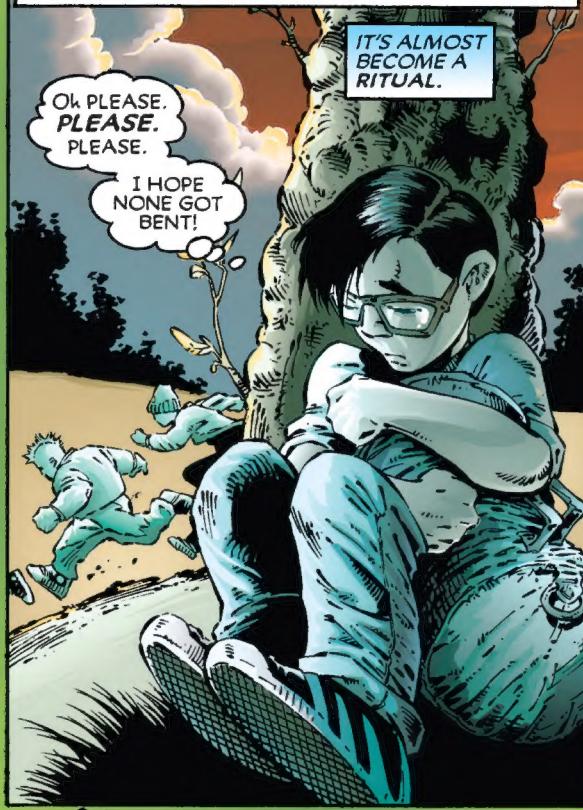
THAT'S WHAT I'M THINKING.

OH! HELLO, SAM. NICE TO SEE YOU AGAIN.

GULP!



HE'S PAT SHAUNESSY--THE CLASS GEEK. EVERY WEDNESDAY AFTER SCHOOL THEY FOLLOW HIM. WHEN HE COMES OUT OF THE STORE AFTER MAKING HIS NEW PURCHASES, THE CHASE BEGINS.



DON'T HURT
ME. I'LL DO
ANYTHING
YOU WANT.
ANYTHING!

SENSING
THAT THE
BOY POSES
NO THREAT,
THE CAPE
RELEASES
HIM.

GET OUT
OF HERE,
BOY! BEFORE
YOU GET
HURT.

WHAT D'YOU
MEAN? ARE YOU
OKAY, MISTER?
YOU DON'T LOOK
SO GOOD.

I'M FINE.
JUST LEAVE.
DON'T ANGER
IT.

DID YOU HEAR
ME? I SAID IT MIGHT...
I MIGHT JUST HURT
YOU. I DON'T HAVE
CONTROL.

OF
WHAT?
YOUR
COSTUME?
YOU MEAN IT'S
ALIVE!!?
JUST LIKE
VENOM'S!?

THAT
MEANS
YOU'RE A
SUPER-
HERO. A
REAL LIVE
ONE.

NOT
QUITE.

A MOMENT PASSES,
AND SPAWN FEELS
THE LIVERY RELAX.

THIS IS SO GREAT!
I MEAN, YOU'RE A
HERO JUST LIKE IN MY
COMICS. HERE, LET
ME SHOW YOU MY
NEWEST ONES.
JUST GOT THEM
TODAY.

TOMMY
AND HIS GANG
OF BULLIES
TRY TO STEAL
THEM EVERY
WEEK.

HEY!
ARE YOU
PART OF A
TEAM?

EXCUSE
ME?

YOU
KNOW, LIKE
YOUNGBLOODS.
THE AVENGERS.
FANTASTIC FOUR.
THE X-MEN.

YOU LIKE
COMICS? I LOVE
'EM!! ESPECIALLY THE
MUTANTS. THEY'RE THE
COOLEST. THOUGH IT'S
TOUGH KEEPING
TRACK OF ALL
THEIR BOOKS.

Y'KNOW,
X-FORCE USED TO
BE MY FAVORITE, 'TIL
TONY DANIELS LEFT.
IT'S STILL OKAY,
I GUESS.

AND
SPIDEY. I LIKE
HIM TOO.
CRAWLING
AROUND
BUILDINGS AND
STUFF.

WOULDN'T
THAT BE AWE-
SOME? WELL,
WHAT'S YOUR
ANSWER? YOU
PART OF A
GROUP, OR
WHAT?

DEATH
AND
FINA

NO.

THAT'S OKAY. LOTS OF NEAT HEROES STAY TO THEMSELVES. SUPERMAN. HULK. THE MAXX. SAVAGE DRAGON. EVEN THE PITT.

SURE WISH THAT BOOK CAME OUT MORE OFTEN.

EVEN BATMAN. HAVE YOU SEEN ANY OF THE MOVIES?

WHAT MOVIES?

THE BATMAN ONES. THERE'S BEEN THREE OF THEM. YOU COULDN'T HAVE MISSED ALL OF THEM! WHERE YOU BEEN?

AWAY FOR A VERY LONG TIME.

THEN YOU DON'T KNOW ABOUT IMAGE COMICS, EITHER.

NO.

TOO BAD. THEY'RE THE BEST! WOW, I GUESS IT'S PRETTY TOUGH BEING A GOOD GUY, HUH?

SPAWN CAN ONLY SMILE.

WELL, I'M GOING TO BE ONE WHEN I GROW UP. BEEN PRACTICING AND EVERYTHING. EVEN GOT ME A SYMBOL!

Ta-DAA!

IT STANDS FOR THE TERRORIZER!

WHAT'S YOURS STAND FOR?

NOTHING.

SURE IT DOES. THEY ALL DO.

"IT LOOKS LIKE A BIG 'M' TO ME. SO WHAT'RE YOUR POWERS?"

"DON'T KNOW YET."

"YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT SUPER-POWERS YOU HAVE. THAT'S NOT VERY SMART. WELL THEN, DID SOMEBODY GIVE YOU YOUR STRENGTH?"

"YOU COULD SAY THAT."

"WHAT WAS HIS NAME?"

"MALEBOLGIA."

"THAT'S A FUNNY NAME. BUT IT DOES BEGIN WITH AN 'M'."

"YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT, KID."

"OKAY, HOW ABOUT THIS. DID THIS MALEBOLGIA GUY GIVE POWER TO ANYONE ELSE THAT YOU KNOW OF?"

"YES."

"AND DOES HE HAVE THE SAME MARK?"

THE VISION RUSHES HEADLONG AT HIM. THE VIOLATOR'S HUMAN FORM DOES HAVE A MARK, ON HIS FOREHEAD. A PERFECT MATCH FOR THE ONE ON SPAWN'S CHEST.

IT
REALLY
IS AN
"M."

TOLD YA!

BUT YOU KNOW WHAT I HAVEN'T FIGURED? HOW DO YOU BECOME A GOOD-GUY? I MEAN A *REAL* ONE. NOT A PRETEND ONE.

I'D LIKE TO KNOW. SERIOUSLY.

I DON'T HAVE YOUR ANSWERS, SON. IF I DID, I WOULDN'T BE STUCK IN A BARN, NOW WOULD I?

YEAH, I GUESS NOT.

WHAT'S YOUR NAME?

PAT.

LISTEN, PAT. BEING A HERO ISN'T ABOUT CAPES AND COSTUMES. IT'S ABOUT ACTIONS. AND HOW YOU CHOOSE THEM.

IT'S NOT THAT EASY.

IN CASE YOU HAVEN'T GUessed, I'M THE CLASS NERD. THE TEACHER LIKES ME BUT THAT'S ABOUT IT. DON'T HAVE ANY FRIENDS, REALLY. THE KIDS AT SCHOOL CAN BE KINDA CRUEL AT TIMES, TOO. BUT I'M TOO SCARED TO FIGHT.

STRENGTH ISN'T ABOUT MUSCLES, PAT.

IT'S ABOUT STANDING UP FOR WHAT'S RIGHT. EVEN IF OTHERS DISAGREE.

YOU SOUND LIKE MY DAD.

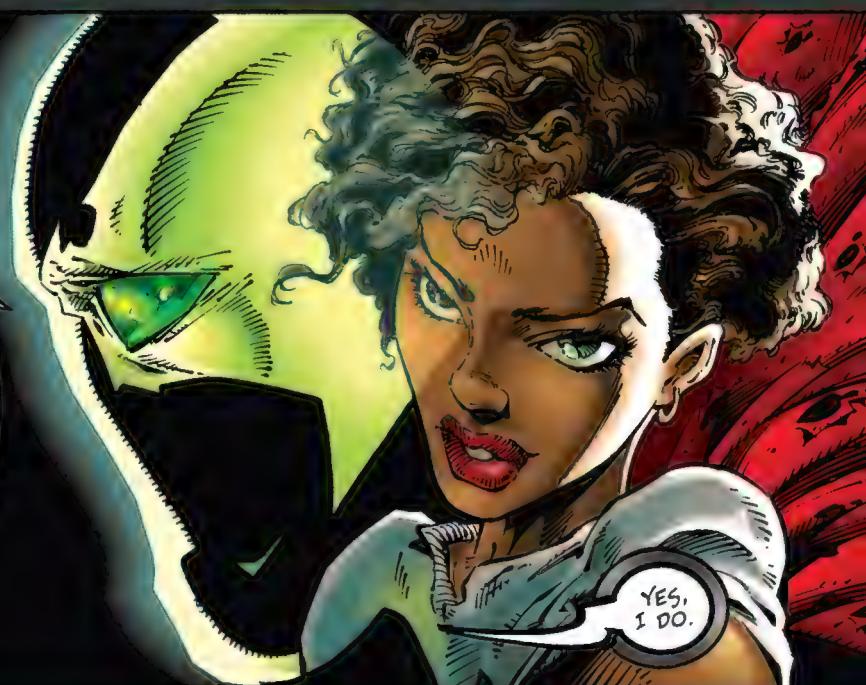
I'M NOT TRYING TO LECTURE YOU. BUT YOU KNOW THERE'S EVIL IN THE WORLD. IT COMES IN MANY FORMS. EACH OF US HAS TO STAND UP TO IT SOMETIME, IN OUR OWN WAY.

I UNDERSTAND. I THINK. CAN I ASK YOU SOMETHING ELSE? DO YOU KNOW MUCH ABOUT GIRLS?

Uh?

THERE'S THIS GIRL, SEE. HER NAME IS PAM WILLIAMS. I LIKE HER LOTS. SHE'S SMART AND VERY CUTE. PROBLEM IS, SHE DOESN'T KNOW I'M ALIVE. DO YOU HAVE A GIRLFRIEND?

YES, I DO.







THE GREAT BEAST RESTS FOR A MOMENT. THIS IS NOT THE RIGHT PLACE.

NOT BIG ENOUGH.

NOT TALL ENOUGH.

IT MUST BE BEHIND THE CLOUDS.

HE HAS TO GET TO THE RIGHT PLACE. THEY HAVE THE SECRET THERE.

HIS BRAIN--WHAT'S LEFT OF IT--TELLS HIM SO. BUT FIRST HE MUST FEED.

HE REMEMBERS THAT YOU MUST BE STRONG TO ENTER THE 'RIGHT PLACE' ... FOR IT IS WHERE THINGS GET LOST. WHERE THINGS DISAPPEAR.

A JUNGLE. THAT'S WHAT IT IS. A MASSIVE GREY JUNGLE.

WITH SHADOWS TO HIDE MANY SECRETS.

NU YORK



SOON,
VERY SOON,
HE WILL
FIND IT.

AND THOSE
WHO MADE HIM.

JUST BEHIND
THE CLOUDS.

MANHATTAN.
12TH PRECINCT
STATION HOUSE.
3:18 A.M.

DO YOU
THINK
THIS IS
PROPER,
SIR?

SCREW
PROPER!!

KEYS
THAT MIGHT
UNLOCK
SOME DARK
SECRETS.

OH, DON'T
LOOK SO
SURPRISED. THE
WHOLE BUILDING
KNOWS YOU AND
BANKS ARE
WARRING... AND
PEOPLE ARE
TAKING
SIDES.

WE NEED TO
GET OUR HANDS
ON HIS ROLODEX.
YOU'VE ALREADY
AGREED.

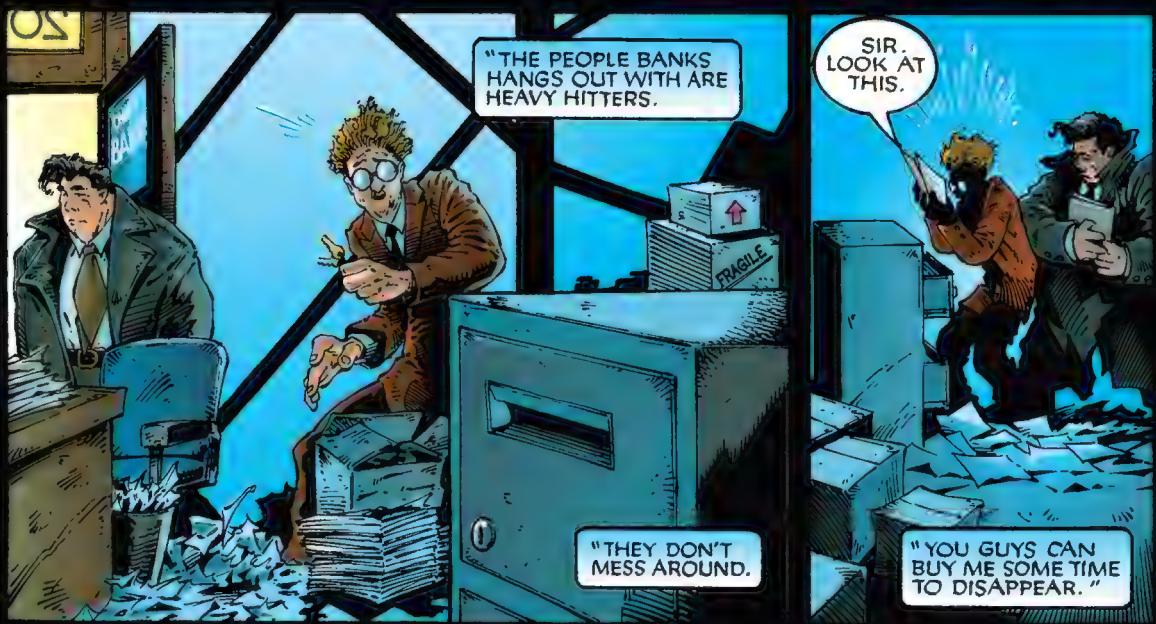
TO
STAND
GUARD.
THAT'S
ALL.

FINE.

HERE'S
WHAT
YOU NEED,
BOYS.

ME, I'M
JUST OUT
FOR SELF-
PRESERVATION...
WHICH MEANS I
NEED A FAVOR
FROM YOU
BOYS.





BINGO!

RECEIPTS FROM
A COURIER SERVICE--
FOR MOVING ITEMS
FROM ONE POINT TO
ANOTHER-- SOME UP
TO FOUR OR FIVE
TIMES A DAY!

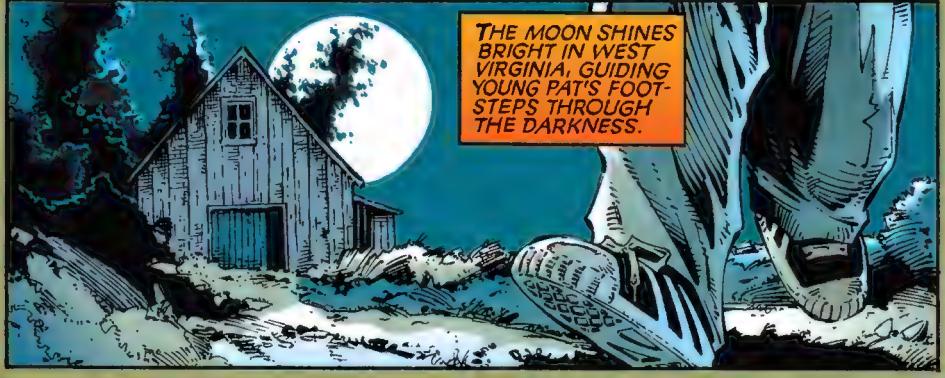
ALL
ENDING UP
AT VARIOUS
FINANCIAL
INSTITU-
TIONS.

MY GUT TELLS ME
WE DO A LITTLE POKING
AROUND AND WE'VE GOT
A WEB CONNECTING
POLITICIANS, A MURDER-
ER, COPS, C.I.A. AND
BUSINESSMEN- ALL
INVOLVED IN SOME
TWISTED PLAN.

ALL
TRIGGERED
BY THE DEATH
OF SENATOR
JENNINGS'
DAUGHTER.

"DAMN THEM, TWITCH. KINCAID
WAS JUST A TOOL. SOMEONE
THEY COULD USE FOR
CAREER ADVANCEMENT."

"WELL, I HOPE THEY'RE
COMFORTABLE NOW,
BECAUSE THEY'RE
ABOUT TO GET
CRAPPED ON."



THE MOON SHINES BRIGHT IN WEST VIRGINIA, GUIDING YOUNG PAT'S FOOTSTEPS THROUGH THE DARKNESS.



LOST IN THOUGHT AS HE WALKS HOMeward, PAT MULLS OVER EVERYTHING SPAWN TRIED TO TELL HIM.

ABOUT LIFE, GIRLS, HEROISM, AND THE POWER FROM WITHIN.



THIS ISN'T THE FIRST TIME TOM AND HIS BULLIES HAVE ATTACKED POOR PAT, TRYING TO STEAL HIS COMICS AND ANY LEFTOVER POCKET CHANGE...



...BUT TONIGHT'S OUTCOME WILL BE THE FIRST THAT THEY COULD NOT HAVE PREDICTED.



HOW ABOUT...
ALL OF THEM!

EACH IS EVIL,
IN SOME SMALL
FASHION.

JUST ENOUGH
TO ATTRACT
THE PARASITIC
UNIFORM OF...

SPAWN!

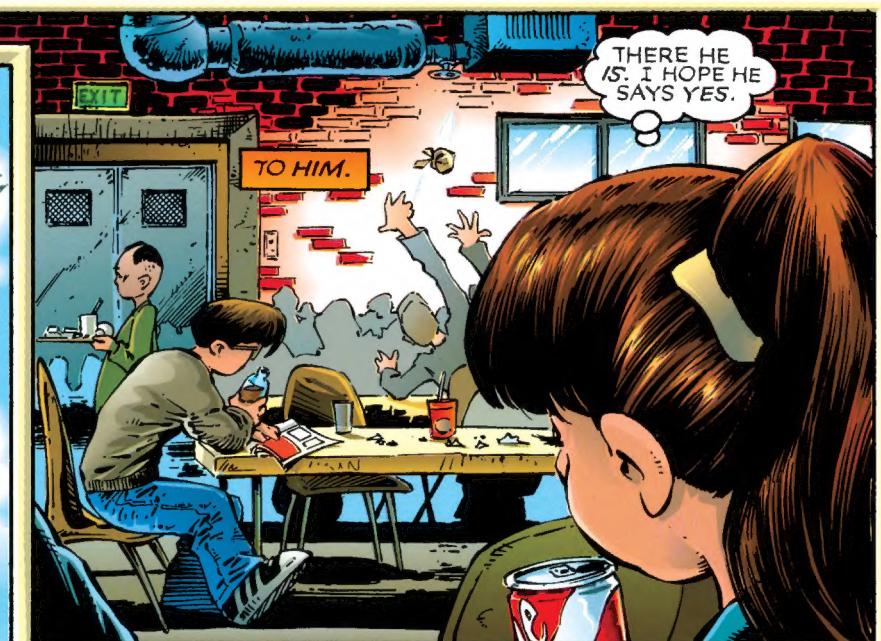
WHAT'RE
YOU DOING?
I THOUGHT THEY
WERE AFRAID OF
ME, NOT YOU. I
DIDN'T NEED YOU
TO SNEAK UP
BEHIND ME!

YOU MADE
ME LOOK
LIKE A FOOL!
ARE YOU
LISTENING?

NOT REALLY. THE
COSTUME HAS TAKEN
OVER MOST OF HIS
NEURAL SYSTEM AGAIN.
SPAWN'S ACTIONS ARE
NOW PREDICATED ON
THE CLOAK'S EMOTIONS.

YOU'RE
HURTING
THEM!
CAN'T YOU
SEE?!





THANKS. I
HEARD ABOUT
WHAT YOU DID
YESTERDAY...
HOW YOU HELPED
TOMMY AND HIS
FRIENDS. EVERY-
ONE'S TALKING
ABOUT IT.

THAT WAS VERY BRAVE OF
YOU, PAT. WE'RE ALL IMPRESSED.
I THINK IT'S COOL WHAT YOU DID.
SO, I WAS WONDERING IF YOU'D
LIKE TO BE MY DATE FOR THE
SADIE HAWKINS DANCE
ON FRIDAY.

IT'D BE
AN HONOR
TO GO WITH
THE SCHOOL
HERO.





EMPIRE

© 2017